

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2852
Examiner: Unassigned

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

Applicant : Masahiro FUKUDA et al

Appl. No. : 10/648,397

Filed : August 27, 2003

For : IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Atty. Dkt. : MAE 294

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT**

March 3, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an information disclosure statement submitted in compliance with the timing requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), i.e., prior to a first Office Action on the merits.

Copies of five documents, a European Search Report mailed December 16, 2003, in which the documents were cited, and a Form PTO-1449 listing the documents are submitted herewith. The relevance of the publications may be gleaned from the English-language abstracts. The publications are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before a first Office Action, no certification or fee is required, and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98 are deemed to be fully met as to all documents submitted. Consideration of the submitted documents respectfully is requested.

Should any fee be required, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002 and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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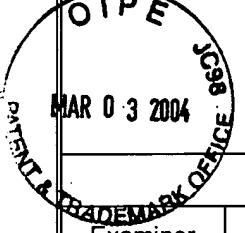
March 3, 2004

Date

No. 18-0002

SMR:tlc

**FEE ENCLOSED:\$
Please charge any further
fee to our Deposit Account**

FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 				Atty. Docket	Application No.		
				MAE 294	10/648,397		
				Applicant Masahiro FUKUDA et al			
Filing Date August 27, 2003			Group 2852				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date
	AA	5,517,283	5/14/96	HORI et al			5/19/93
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Trans-lation
	AI	2002-131997	5/9/02	JAPAN			Abstract
	AJ	2000-081739	3/21/00	JAPAN			Abstract
	AK	05-164694	6/29/93	JAPAN			Abstract
	AL	2002-031919	1/31/02	JAPAN			Abstract
	AM	EP 0 314 536	9/30/88	EP			
	AN						
OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AO						
Examiner					Date Considered		
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.							